The Report recognizes India's unique position as a world's largest producer of licit opium and as an important transhipment point for heroin from South West Asia and South East Asia. It mentions in positive terms of the high level cooperation between the Govern-ment of India and the U.S. Government. The positive remarks finding place in the Report is a clear vindication of India's efforts in the durg enforcement field and the initiatives announced by the Government with regard to licit opium cultivation.

The Report also lists out major accomplishments to the credit of Indian law enforcement agencies, particularly the narcotics Control Bureau and the Central Bureau of narcotics with regard to several measures taken to reduce illicit trafficking and diversion of licit opium into illicit channels, like:-

(a) raising the minimum yield of opium that farmers must deliver for the fifth consecutive year to the Government in order to retain a license;

(b) offences relating to embezzlement of opium by licensed cultivators treated on par with other trafficking offences under the NDPS Act and Rules;

(c) controlling availability of precursor chemicals with cooperation from the industry;

(d) setting up of three new zonal units at Chandigarh, Jammu and Ahmedabad by the Narcotics Control Bureau;

(e) proposed legislative measures to curb and prevent money laundering.

The Report also takes congnizance of the priority accorded to the coordinating activity of the Narcotics Control Bureau in the field of narcotics law enforcement and narcotics interdiction.

It may be mentioned that India has a Mutual Cooperation Agreement with the U.S. Government for reducing demand, preventing illicit use of and trafficking in drugs and matters relating to licit trade of opiates besides a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperative measures to increase awareness of and support for efforts on to combat production, distribution and use of illicit drugs. Periodical meetings of the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group take place to strengthen narcotics control efforts of both the countries.

Closure of PSUs

1746. SHRI BAS DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down unviable Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of such unviable undertakings; and

(c) the broad details of policy of the Government in regard to unviable undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Sick PSUs are referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for suitable decision.

(c) The policy of the Government on public sector undertakings have been spelt out in the Common Minimum Programme.

Disinvestment Commission

1747. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had appointed a Disinvestment Commission to advise the Government on how and in which Public Sector Enterprises dilute its stake to 49% or 26%;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government for Joint Ventures in regard to loss making units and sale of some Public Sector Enterprises;

(d) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been proposed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has been set up by the Govt., inter-alia, to draw a comprehensive long term Disinvestment programme for the Govt. and they are seized of the matter.

(c) to (e) The Government have already formulated strategies to restructure the public enterprises under the Ministry of Industry, inclusive of loss making enterprises. Under such strategies various options like joint venture, sale of specific unit etc. are considered on case to case basis. Implementation of the strategies is a continuous process.

Export Promotion Council, Gujarat

1748. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open offices of different Export Promotion Council (EPC) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote the export of various items-products from the State;

(d) if so, whether any amount has been earmarked for this purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Central Government evolves Plans and formulates export policy to promote the export of various items/products for the entire country, including Gujarat taking into account the potentialities, specialisation in export production and infrastructural aspects of each part of the country.

Legislation to Prevent Corruption by Legislators

1749. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to bring forward legislation to prevent corruption by legislators in the country;

(b) if so, the salient feature thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) Apart from the Lok Pal Bill, 1996 which has already been introduced in Lok Sabha on 13.9.1996 to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lok Pal to enquire into allegations to corruption against public functionaries which includes Members of Parliament there is no proposal to bring forward any other legislation in this regard.

BIFR to Look Four Private Sector Companies

1750. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether four private sector companies have succeeded in making their net-worth positive and have thus ceased to be sick industrial units;

(b) the total number of sick units which were undertaken for rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the number out of them have been rehabilitated so far;

(d) the total number of sick industrial units sanctioned for rehabilitation by the BIFR; and

(e) to what extent their performance has been better?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that as on 30.6.1997, 1945 sick industrial companies were registered with it under the provision of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. 593 rehabilitation schemes have been sanctioned by the BIFR/Appellate Authority for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for revival of the sick industrial companies. Out of the above, 181 companies which include 176 companies in the private sector and 5 companies in the public sector, have been discharged from the ourview of BIFR consequent on implementation of rehabilitation schemes. The implementation of the rehabilitation schemes of the remaining companies is monitored periodically by the BIFR.

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

1751. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindi Consultative Committee of his Ministry has been constituted;

(b) if so, the number of its meetings held during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for the reconsititution of Hindi Consultative Committee or convening its meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons behind writing all the files of the Ministry in Roman/English and the reasons that modern equipments, computers are used merely in Roman/English; and

(f) the steps taken to do all works in Hindi in the golden Jubilee year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After convening the meeting of the Committee on 27.3.1996 only one meeting could be held during 1996-97 (on 22.1.1997) due to General Election of Lok Sabha and nominations of newly elected M.Ps to the Samiti, no meeting could be held during 1997-98 as yet.

(c) and (d) Hindi Salahkar Samiti of the Ministry of Commerce was constituted on July 27, 1994 and its tenure was upto July 26, 1997. Necessary action is being taken to reconstitute the Committee.

(e) It is not correct to say that notings on all files are being done in English. At present use of Hindi is being done on 1100 files in various sections in the Ministry. A part from this, computers and electronic typewriters are, as far as possible, put into use in Hindi also.

(f) A number of attractive incentive schemes have been introduced in the Ministry for doing work in Hindi so as to enhance the use of Hindi in the Golden Jubilee Year. Personnel in the Ministry are being motivated to do their work in Hindi by organising Hindi workshop etc.

[English]

Expert Group on Non-Banking Financial Companies

1752. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :